

in the assembling of these camps. But I did not directly or indirectly refer to all this in my speech. I merely said that during these last thirteen months we as a nation had absolutely failed to prepare. I said that the results of our weakness had been evident in the murder of our women and children on the high seas.

"Now, either these camps are justified or they are not. If we are utterly unprepared, then they are justified and required. Otherwise they are not, for of course they are only makeshifts, adopted because of the lack of proper governmental action. This improper failure of the government to act may be due either to the Administration leading the people wrong or to the people not permitting the Administration to lead it right. In my speech I was most careful to put the responsibility on the people, on the nation. AH a matter of fact, I do not think that that is where\* it primarily belongs. I think it primarily rests on the shoulders of Mr. Wilson; but I agreed with the view you expressed, that the camp was not the place to say BO.

" However, if there is to be any speechmaking at all at the camp, then that speechmaking should be truthful and to the point. To support the great immediate need of national preparedness is of course by implication to condemn the Administration to whose supine action we owe our present utter unpreparedness. To condemn the folly and worse of those who favor this policy of supine action is of course to condemn the Administration. You say you ap-

prove of both. Then you approve of all that I  
have done,  
If it is not proper to say these things which  
should be said  
to all patriotic Americans, to such a camp,  
then in my  
judgment it is wholly improper to hold those  
camp« at all,  
and the sooner they are abandoned the  
better."

A rather despairing note is discernible in  
this letter,  
August 28, 1915, to Frederick Palmer, then with  
the British  
Expeditionary Force in France:

"I am sick at heart about Wilson, and  
therefore about  
the American people. The only thing to say in  
defense of